

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to applicants' representative during a telephonic interview conducted on February 23, 2007.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 7 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Tsuji U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2001/0016856 and claims 3, 5-6 and 9-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuji in view of Lerner U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0172595. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

During the February 23 interview, applicants' representative explained the differences between applicants' claims and the Tsuji reference, especially in view of amendments to claims 1 and 7 made by applicants on September 21, 2006. There, applicants amended claim 1 to recite a system for processing a handwritten document that includes a printing part that prints the document based on the format acquired by the format acquisition part and further recites that the printing part prints with the document identifier information by which the handwritten information acquiring part identifies the format of the document. Applicants similarly amended claim 7.

As discussed during the interview, applicants respectfully disagree that Tsuji discloses the claimed "wherein the printing part prints identifier information with the document by which the handwritten information acquiring part identifies the format of the document." In applicants' invention, the Identifier Information for identifying the format of the document is printed out with the document. The handwritten information acquiring part reads the printed contents and identifies the format of the document.

In Tsuji (Fig. 6 and paragraphs [0068]-[0069]), on the other hand, while "Z" serving as an ID is indicated in the form "P," the "Z" is not displayed and is not printed out in the form "P," which is the form displayed and/or printed out. Thus, Tsuji does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. Tsuji fails to do this. Accordingly, the invention claimed is patentable over the cited reference, and claims 1 and 7

should be allowed. This logic also disposes of the rejections of claims 3, 5-6 and 9-12, which depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 7.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 116692005400.

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Respectfully submitted,

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